THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) As per the latest trade data available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, the total value of export and import of agro and non-agro products and their difference during last three years in US dollar million are as given below:

AGRO PRODUCTS **U.S. $ MILLION**

YEAR	Export	Import	Difference
1997-98	3889	1796	2093
1998-99	3845	2996	849
1999-2000*	3397	2741	656

***Provisional**

NON-AGRO PRODUCTS **U.S. $ MILLION**

YEAR	Export	Import	Difference
1997-98	31117	39688	-8571
1998-99	29374	39393	-10019
1999-2000*	34141	43413	-9272

***Provisional**

The details of quantity and value of various agro and non-agro items are given in the monthly and Annual Publication of Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(d) As seen from the above table, exports of the agro items are higher than its imports. However, Government is taking a number of steps to promote exports of various products including agro products, which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures from time to time. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. Identification of new sectors, new items and new markets for exports is a continuous process.

Visit of US trade delegation

1453. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade delegation from USA comprising public and private sector visited India to explore collaborative efforts to various projects in India.

(b) if so, what were the main subjects discussed;

(c) whether any trade agreement between the two countries were signed;

(d) if so, the details of the same;

(e) to what extent trade between the two countries will be improved; and

(f) what are the projects that will be undertaken jointly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (f) There is a regular flow of trade and business delegations from USA to India and vice-versa through the year, with the government/public and private sectors being represented. USA is India's largest trading partner and the top most export destination for Indian goods and services and also one of the major sources of foreign investment in India. Such delegations during their visits discuss with their counterparts cooperation in areas of particular interest to them to facilitate an improvement in bilateral trade ties leading to the undertaking of joint projects to mutual benefits.

Export of agricultural products

1454. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and value of Indian agricultural products exported during the last three years;

(b) the countries to which exported; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to boost the export of agricultural products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) The country's agricultural exports including marine Products, Tea, Coffee, Castor oil and Cotton, during the last three years are given below:

Export of Agricultural Products (In terms of value in Rs. Crores)

Year	Agricultural Exports (Rs. in Crores)
1997-98	24626
1998-99	25387
1999-2000(P)	23823

(P)-Provisional (Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)